

Andrew Barr MLA

Chief Minister



Member for Kurrajong

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Obj #18/05116

Toshiyuki Kono
President
ICOMOS Australia
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Copy to:

Mr Ben Morton MP

The Hon Dr John McVeigh MP

Dear Toshiyuki Kono

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2018 about ICOMOS General Assembly Resolution on the *Conservation of the Lake Burley Griffin and Lakeshore Landscape, Australia*. I am also responding on behalf of Minister Gentleman, MLA.

I understand that Resolution 19GA 2017/15 requests the Australian national and state authorities to:

- Halt planned infill development to ensure the removal of threats and to ensure that the inclusion of the Lake Burley Griffin and Lakeshore Landscape to the National Heritage List is progressed without further delay; and
- that all development and use of the Lake Burley Griffin and Lakeshore Landscape, including that proposed in the West Basin, be guided by an overarching conservation management plan.

Heritage protection of the Lake area relates to matters that are the subject of nominations to the National or Commonwealth Heritage Lists and are in the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth and the Australian Heritage Council. As such, the National Capital Authority (NCA) developed the *Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands Heritage Management Plan* in 2009, in accordance with the heritage management principles and requirements for management plans set out in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to define the Lake's heritage values and how to protect them. During the process of developing the plan a draft was available for two months for the public to make comment.

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The plan includes a range of conservation policies and recommendations to conserve, interpret and manage the heritage values of Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands to ensure that the future use and enhancement of the Lake is informed by the heritage values, by promoting a holistic approach to the future management of the Lake as a cultural landscape. The developments to the area were informed by the plan and approved by the NCA.

A copy of the plan can be found at: <https://www.nca.gov.au/heritage-management-plan/lake-burley-griffin-and-adjacent-lands-heritage-management-plan-0>.

Canberra is a growing modern, vibrant city. It has changed significantly in its first 100 years, and particularly over the past 10 years. As it has grown it has kept true to the vision the original designers, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin, while reflecting the evolving nature of a modern city and the people who call it home. This vision, and their planning legacy, is enshrined in the National Capital Plan (NCP) which is administered by the National Capital Authority, a Commonwealth authority. The plan sets out the development controls and requirements for defined areas, including West Basin.

At the centre of that original vision was the creation of Lake Burley Griffin, achieved through the construction of Scrivener Dam on the Molongolo River. For clarity, Lake Burley Griffin is an artificial lake which was only completed in 1963.

The Griffins' original plan intended the city's street layout and form would continue down to the lake in West Basin, connecting the city centre and lake. While part of the original planning intent, it is only in recent years that implementation of this vision has commenced in earnest, with the first stages of the development of the West Basin waterfront public realm. This work involves the reclamation of a portion of the lake bed to adjust the lake edge to the Griffins' intended alignment for the lake wall.

At the present time, the majority of West Basin is a car park. The ACT Government is committed to transforming West Basin from predominantly a car park into a precinct where people come to meet, celebrate and relax.

That transformation includes a new public park on the West Basin headland which is under construction. The next stage is the development of a 55 metre wide public space, which will include purpose built pavilions for cafes and tourist facilities, playgrounds and water play areas. The West Basin waterfront currently consists of three hectares of surface parking but when redeveloped it will have four hectares of public open space.

A mixed-use, low-rise development is also proposed in West Basin between the new public space and the city, with a range of retail, residential and recreational spaces to create a new community, supported by a wide range of amenities and public infrastructure.

While the development proposed by the ACT Government in West Basin will alter the current landscape, it is consistent with the original planning intent for the city, developed some 100 years ago. The ACT Government does not agree that this development will threaten the cultural and heritage value of the lake and its surrounds; and considers that the proposed development is in accordance with the National Capital Plan, and will strengthen the cultural and heritage value of the Lake.

Thank you for your correspondence. I trust this has responded to the matters raised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

10 APR 2018

